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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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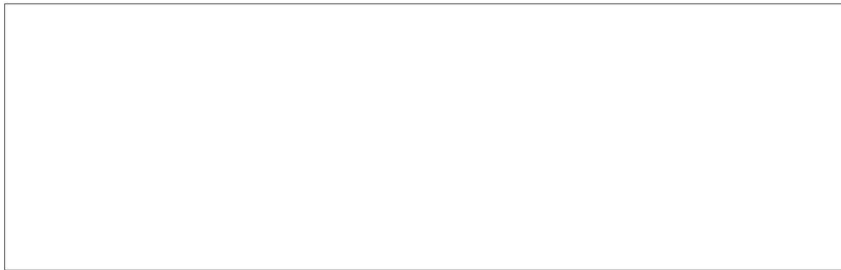
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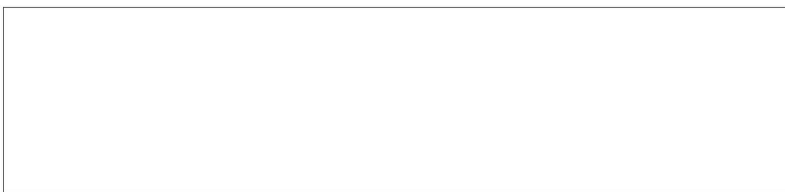
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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)



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Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Hanoi appears to have given a more positive indication of its willingness to talk with the US in return for a cessation of war acts against North Vietnam.

In a statement on 30 December, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh declared that his government "will" hold talks with Washington "about questions concerned" if the US unconditionally terminates the bombing and all other "acts of war" against North Vietnam. His remarks were transmitted in an authoritative Hanoi English-language broadcast on 1 January. Hanoi's previous position had been based on Trinh's statement of 28 January 1967 to the effect only that there "could be talks" if the war acts ended.

The apparent modification in the North Vietnamese position may stem from a concern in Hanoi that its attitude had begun to appear overly rigid to sympathetic foreign observers. Trinh claimed that his statement was in part a response to US assertions that "it wants to talk with Hanoi and that Hanoi has not reciprocated."

The North Vietnamese probably also believe that their statement will increase international pressures on the US for a cessation of the air attacks. An end to the attacks has long been a primary objective of Hanoi, one which it has sought to achieve without making any significant substantive concession on a settlement of the war.

The foreign minister avoided spelling out the timing or content of any talks, but indicated that the basis for solving the Vietnam problem remained Hanoi's four points and the program of the Liberation Front.

South Vietnam: Allied military operations have resumed following the New Year's cease-fire.

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During the allied standdown, which was extended to 36 hours, 170 truce violations were initiated by the Communists. Of these, 63 involved casualties and consequently were classified as major violations. Allied losses during the one-and-a-half-day respite were 66 killed (27 US) and 273 wounded (191 US). Enemy losses were reported as 465 killed as the result of friendly reactions.

Two major incidents occurred on 1 January. Elements of two Viet Cong battalions shelled and attempted to overrun a South Vietnamese garrison in the delta. Sixty enemy troops, reportedly including a battalion commander, were killed. Allied losses for the battle were 19 killed and 48 wounded. Some twenty miles northeast of Tay Ninh City, a brigade of the 25th US Division came under heavy ground and mortar attack. The enemy broke contact after six hours. Initial results show 26 US personnel killed and 111 wounded, with 326 of the enemy killed and 5 detained. [REDACTED]

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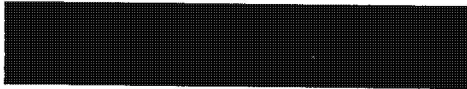
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